WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto, comprising:

a connection unit for connecting said external unit;

a first control unit connectable with said external unit for controlling communication between said connected external unit and said information processing apparatus;

a second control unit connectable with said external unit for controlling communication between said connected external unit and said information processing apparatus; and

a switching unit for selecting said first control unit or said second control unit as control unit connected with said external unit, for communication between said connected external unit and said information processing apparatus.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching unit has:

a determination unit for determining the type of said connected external unit; and

a selection unit for selecting said first control unit or said second control unit as said control unit connected with said external unit, for controlling the

communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus, in correspondence with the determined type of said external unit.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first control unit is a device controller,

and wherein if said determination unit determines that said external unit is a USB host unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said selection unit selects said first control unit so as to connect said first control unit with said external unit.

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards,

and wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, said determination unit determines that said external unit is said USB host unit.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second control unit is a host controller,

and wherein if said determination unit determines that said external unit is a USB device unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said selection unit selects said second control unit so as to connect said second control unit with said external unit.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards,

and wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, said determination unit determines that said external unit is said USB device unit.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said first control unit and said second control unit; and

a warning unit for, if said use status determination unit determines that said first control unit or said second control unit is in use, and said control unit, selected from said first and second control unit in correspondence with the type of said external unit determined by said determination unit and

connected with said external unit, is in use, giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus,

wherein said selection unit selects said control unit in use as said control unit connected with said external unit.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if said use status determination unit determines that said control unit in use has become not in use, said selection unit selects said control unit that has been in use as said control unit connected with said external unit.

9. A control method for an information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto via a connection unit, comprising:

a first control step of controlling communication between said connected external unit and said information processing apparatus;

a second control step of controlling communication between said connected external unit and said information processing apparatus; and

a switching step of selecting said first control step or said second control step as a control step of

controlling communication between said connected external unit and said information processing apparatus.

10. The control method according to claim 9, wherein said switching step has:

a determination step of determining the type of said connected external unit; and

a selection step of selecting said first control step or said second control step as said control step for controlling the communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus, in correspondence with the determined type of said external unit.

11. The control method according to claim 10, wherein said first control step is a device control step,

and wherein if it is determined at said determination step that said external unit is a USB host unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said first control step is selected at said selection step, so as to perform communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus at said first control step.

12. The control method according to claim 11, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in

conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards,

and wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, it is determined at said determination step that said external unit is said USB host unit.

13. The control method according to claim 10, wherein said second control step is a host control step,

and wherein if it is determined at said determination step that said external unit is a USB device unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said second control step is selected at said selection step, so as to perform communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus at said second control step.

14. The control method according to claim 13, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards,

and wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, it is determined at said determination step that said external unit is said USB device unit.

15. The control method according to claim 10, further comprising:

an execution status determination step of determining an execution status of said first control step and said second control step; and

a warning step of, if it is determined at said execution status determination step that said first control step or said second control step is in execution, and said control step, selected from said first step and said second control step in correspondence with the type of said external unit determined by said determination step and controlling communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus, is in execution, giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus,

wherein at said selection step, said control unit in execution is selected as said control step of controlling communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus.

16. The control method according to claim 15, wherein if it is determined at said use status determination step that said control step in execution has become not in execution, said control step that has been in execution is selected at said selection step as said

control step of controlling communication between said external unit and said information processing apparatus.

17. A control program for information processing apparatus for executing by a computer the control method according to claim 9.